



News From

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Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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COUNTY MARKS AMERICA RECYCLES DAY WITH IMPROVEMENTS AT RECYCLING CENTER

State Grant Allows for Expansion of Paper Recycling

In recognition of America Recycles Day, Monroe County Legislator **A. Michael Hanna** announced the completion of a two-year, \$1.6 million project to upgrade the Monroe County Recycling Center. The equipment improvements will allow increased efficiency and enhanced recycling for the community.

Hanna is Chairman of the County Legislature's Environment and Public Works Committee. He represented **County Executive Maggie Brooks** at the ceremony. Brooks was in Albany.

"America Recycles Day is national campaign to increase recycling participation and awareness -- and it's the perfect time to announce the completion of this important recycling project," said Legislator Hanna. *"The Recycling Center's equipment is 12 years old and has taken a lot of wear -- we are certainly pleased to take advantage of a state grant to optimize and expand the program."*

In 2002, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program awarded the county a 50 percent matching grant (or about \$780,000) for the upgrades. The project replaced weigh scales and the container sorting line. It also added a mixed paper sorting screen and a second baler.

"This new equipment has allowed the county to expand its paper recycling program from accepting just a few paper items, to accepting all clean paper," said Hanna. *"At about 36 percent, paper still constitutes the largest portion of the municipal solid waste stream. If county residents and businesses participate to maximize this paper program, they would certainly make a positive impact on area landfills."*

The Recycling Center currently receives about 175 tons of curbside recyclable material per day (70 percent paper). Metro Waste Paper Recovery, U.S., Inc. operates the facility under a ten-year agreement that nets the county about \$250,000 per year. Metro is responsible for all operating and revenue risks and is currently paying the City of Rochester and other area waste haulers \$8-12 per ton for paper (depending on the market). The enhanced paper recycling program is not only a financial incentive to the haulers, but also an operational one, as it allows garbage trucks to remain on their routes longer, fill less quickly and avoid landfill tipping fees.

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"We are pleased to be able to announce that city residents can now recycle more materials, including junk mail and office paper, cereal boxes, and pizza boxes," said Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. "Recycling improves our community's quality of life, and is in keeping with our Environmental Stewardship campaign outlined in our Rochester 2010 Plan."

Monroe County's curbside recycling program is outlined in the Frontier phone book (the first white page after the government blue pages) or you can visit Monroe County's web site (www.monroecounty.gov).

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